NUMB. XXVII.

The GRUMBLER.

By Squire GIZZARD.

----------Succo renovemur amaro. **Ovid.**

From *Friday* June 17. to *Tuesday* June 22. 1715.

I Have obſerved there are a great many *Valetudinarians*, as well Males as Females, who tinge their Tea with that famous Bitter which is known by the Name of Dr. *Stoughton*'s *Cordial Elixir*. I ſhall not Interfere with the Practice of this renowned Phyſician, my Deſign being upon the Mind, I leave the Diſorders of the Body intirely to him. To ſuch therefore, who find themſelves in good Bodily Health, but labour under irregular Paſſions and vicious Inclinations, I dare venture to recommend *the Grumbler*, as an excellent *Philoſophick Bitter* to be taken in the Morning, twice a Week, with a Diſh of Coffee.

I would, I muſt confeſs, baniſh the too frequent Uſe of Tea from amongſt my Diſciples, and introduce the moderate Uſe of Coffee in the Place of it, for a great many Reaſons, which it would be but tedious to enumerate; therefore I ſhall only inſiſt upon this One, that Tea and Scandal go together, as inſeparably as Coffee and Wiſdom.

(Price Two-Pence.)

Coffee has from my Childhood been my favourite Drink; I never found it fail of calming my Paſſions, when they ſeemed the moſt prone to Rebel againſt my Reaſon, for theſe Twenty Years paſt, during which Time, I have duely every Morning ſipped Three Diſhes of this Liquor; I have found no ill Effect from it, unleſs, if that be an Ill, I may attribute a Shade or two more of Swarthineſs in my Complexion than Ordinary, to the Tincture of the Berry.

Coffee has from time to time met with very ſtrenuous Adverſaries, as well as with the moſt zealous Admirers. The Misfortune hath been, that the greateſt Number of theſe, who have declar'd againſt it, have been Strangers to the Virtues of it; and thoſe, who have ſtood up in its Defence, have often been ſo far intoxicated with its Vapour, as to fall into extravagant Raptures in Praiſe of it.

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The Enemies of this ſober Liquid pretend to diſcover, that it is impregnated with Particles of the moſt pernicious Nature: One is confident in aſſerting, that it preys ſecretly upon the Nerves; another, that it drys up the vital Moiſture of the Body; a Third pronounces it to be of ſo hot a Nature, as to breed Fevers, when taken in any Quantity; and a Fourth goes about to demonſtrate, that it corrupts the whole Maſs of Blood.

On the other Hand, the Advocates for this foreign Drug inform you, that it is no leſs than a *Panacea* or univerſal Medicine; that it cools thoſe who are hot, and imparts Heat to thoſe, who are cold; that it drys up thoſe who abound in Moiſture, and moiſtens ſuch as are naturally too dry. Laſtly, they appeal even to their Antagoniſts, whether it be not an infallible Remedy for Indigeſtion?

Purſuant to theſe oppoſite Doctrines, *Monſieur la Cloſure*, an eminent Phyſician in *France*, preſcribed Coffee to all his Patients; and *Monſieur Barberac* a Phyſician no leſs famous forbid the Uſe of it to all his Friends.

I ſhall not enter into the Diſquiſitions of the Learned concerning the Antiquity of this more than *Nut-brown Berry*. Tho' I cannot help concurring in my own private Opinion with thoſe, who will have it paſs for the Black Broth of the *Lacedemonians*: And who knows, but the Sobriety of their Youth, ſo far exceeding that of any other Province of *Greece*, was in a great Meaſure owing to the Uſe of Coffee; and why may we not likewiſe imagine, that *Lycurgus* himſelf was inſpired by this *Beveridge* to compoſe ſo wiſe a Syſtem of Laws? Moreover, is there a Nation now in Being of greater Sobriety than the *Turks*, amongſt whom this Tree of Wiſdom grows? And we ſhould be far from becoming worſe Chriſtians, if we confined our ſelves, like them, much more to this Compoſing Draught.

I have known a great many Gentlemen, by the extravagant Influence of Wine, attempt the Lives of their Companions at Midnight; whoſe Thirſt after Blood, has next Morning been ſlaked by a Pot of Coffee: Nay, I could Name an old Uſurer in the City, who raſhly promis'd his Daughter with Ten Thouſand Pounds to a young Templer over a Bottle, and in the Morning, by the Suggeſtions of a Diſh of Coffee, very wiſely intreated the Favour of looking into the Writings of the young Man's Eſtate.

But not to dwell upon particular Inſtances, in which I have known whole Families ſaved from Deſtruction, and their Windows from utter Ruin, by the Wiſdom which Coffee has reſtored to Perſons deprived of their Senſes by the Juice of the Grape, nor upon the peculiar Benefits our Family has received by grinding the Berry: I muſt obſerve to my Readers, that by its compoſing Quality it has often been a publick Benefit to whole Kingdoms. How often has a Stateſman, in the very Heat of working up ſome new Scheme, been tempered by this Infuſion into ſuch a Moderation of Thought, as has preſerved himſelf, his Aſſociates, and his Country from Ruin. The Stock-jobber, unleſs aſſiſted by Coffee, cannot contrive a Method to raiſe his Stock one Quarter in the Hundred; nor can the Projector without it build any thing but Caſtles in the Air.

Monſieur *Colbert*, Surintendant of the *French* Finances, who laid the Foundations of all that Greatneſs, to which the *Grand Monarch* has ſince attained, was ſo intirely addicted to this Liquor, that his Phyſicians not underſtanding his Diſtemper, attributed his Death to his exceſſive Drinking of Coffee. And *France* now ſees a merry Stateſman, who perhaps might have lived to a good old Age in his native Country, had he accuſtomed himſelf to ſuch ſober Tipling.

N. B. I Receive the Complaints and Grievances of all Females from the Age of fifteen to fifty; and of all Males from Twenty to Threeſcore, to which they may expect a ſpeedy Redreſs for Two-Pence. Let the Afflicted ſend in their Caſe to the *Lion* at *Button's* Coffee-Houſe, or to the Printer of this Paper.

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